

University of Pretoria Yearbook 2021

MPhil with specialisation in Evidence-based Management (07254021)

Department Gordon Institute of Business Science

Minimum duration of study 1 year

Total credits 180

NQF level 09

Programme information

The degree comprises the writing of a mini dissertation and coursework.

Full particulars of the degree programme are contained in a brochure which is available from the departmental website.

Admission requirements

1. Relevant honours (or equivalent) degree
or
2. Relevant postgraduate diploma

Additional requirements

Refer to General Regulation G.55.

NB: All modules are compulsory. Candidates must pass all the modules, including the mini dissertation, to qualify for the MPhil degree.

Other programme-specific information

- i. The minimum pass mark for each prescribed course is 50%, provided that a subminimum of 45% has been obtained in the examined component.
- ii. In the case of methodology modules, credit for the module will be obtained through an exam. Exam entry is contingent on adequate progress with the online component of the work, and a subminimum of 45% must be obtained in the examination.
- iii. In the case of thematic understanding modules, students must have obtained a minimum of 50% for assignment submissions.
- iv. A candidate who has failed more than two courses may not continue with their studies for the degree, except



with the approval of the Dean.

Curriculum: Final year

Core modules

Introduction to evidence-based management 801 (GIG 801)

Module credits	6.00
NQF Level	09
Prerequisites	No prerequisites.
Contact time	40 contact hours
Language of tuition	Module is presented in English
Department	Gordon Institute of Business Science
Period of presentation	Semester 1 or Semester 2

Module content

This module reviews some of the basic elements of evidence-based management, i.e. a systematic engagement with evidence and prior knowledge. This module helps students to understand the value of an evidence-based approach to business in an era of rapid social and technological changes, globalisation and “big data”.

Research design 802 (GIG 802)

Module credits	16.00
NQF Level	09
Prerequisites	No prerequisites.
Contact time	16 contact hours
Language of tuition	Module is presented in English
Department	Gordon Institute of Business Science
Period of presentation	Semester 1 or Semester 2

Module content

This module helps students to conceptualise a research design. It covers how the choice of a research design relates to the chosen analytic method (Qualitative Research, Quantitative Research or Mixed Methods). Students are expected to relate the business challenge to the research design and to justify the selection of a given design for a given problem. The objectives of the module are to help students: make informed decisions about their research design; and understand the implications of selecting a given research design in particular around the questions that can be answered.

Principles of quantitative research 803 (GIG 803)

Module credits	16.00
NQF Level	09
Prerequisites	No prerequisites.
Contact time	16 contact hours

Language of tuition Module is presented in English

Department Gordon Institute of Business Science

Period of presentation Semester 1 or Semester 2

Module content

This module aims to expose students to a number of key topics related to quantitative research methodology with the purpose of equipping students with the ability and skills to successfully execute a quantitative research project. More specifically the module intends to provide students with an understanding of the philosophies underlying quantitative research, a selection of research methods used to collect primary data for a quantitative research study and to ensure that they are able to draw a sample to collect quantitative data from respondents. The module also attempts to equip students with the ability to develop a conceptual model in order to illustrate the proposed relationships between variables and equip students with skills to analyse quantitative data.

Principles of qualitative research 804 (GIG 804)

Module credits 16.00

NQF Level 09

Prerequisites No prerequisites.

Contact time 16 contact hours

Language of tuition Module is presented in English

Department Gordon Institute of Business Science

Period of presentation Semester 1 or Semester 2

Module content

This module aims to expose students to a number of key topics related to qualitative research methodology with the purpose of equipping students with the ability and skills to successfully execute a qualitative research project. More specifically the module intends to provide students with an understanding of the philosophies underlying qualitative research and introduces research designs which are consistent with them. Students will learn how to construct a sample in qualitative research and to develop appropriate instruments, as well as developing the skills to use a selection of research methods, for collecting primary data. Finally, students will learn about qualitative data analysis.

Integrated research design 805 (GIG 805)

Module credits 30.00

NQF Level 09

Prerequisites No prerequisites.

Contact time 24 contact hours

Language of tuition Module is presented in English

Department Gordon Institute of Business Science

Period of presentation Semester 1 or Semester 2

Module content

This module aims to help students apply the principles of evidence-based management in an integrative way to the business challenge they have identified. This requires demonstrating how business challenges are better understood with the use of theory or models, measurement concepts and methods, qualitative and/or quantitative modes of observation, identifying causes, the logic of control variables, and the design of experiments and quasi-experiments. Students will also be required to communicate these complex ideas in a language that is deemed credible by scholars, but nonetheless accessible to business audiences.

Thematic understanding module 1 806 (GIG 806)

Module credits	12.00
NQF Level	09
Prerequisites	No prerequisites.
Contact time	8 contact hours
Language of tuition	Module is presented in English
Department	Gordon Institute of Business Science
Period of presentation	Semester 1 or Semester 2

Module content

This module aims to guide students to read existing research and especially theories in an appreciative manner. They need to identify the main theories explaining a real-world challenge of their choice, and to explain how the theories have been used.

Thematic understanding module 2 807 (GIG 807)

Module credits	12.00
NQF Level	09
Prerequisites	No prerequisites.
Contact time	8 contact hours
Language of tuition	Module is presented in English
Department	Gordon Institute of Business Science
Period of presentation	Semester 1 or Semester 2

Module content

This module aims to guide students to read existing literature and especially theories in a critical manner. They need to highlight the 'blind spots' of the main theories that have been used to explain their chosen challenge, and to explain how alternative perspectives may help better explain it. This module aims to guide students to read existing literature and especially theories in a critical manner. They need to highlight the 'blind spots' of the main theories that have been used to explain their chosen challenge, and to explain how alternative perspectives may help better explain it.

Thematic studies module 3 808 (GIG 808)

Module credits	12.00
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NQF Level	09
Prerequisites	No prerequisites.
Contact time	8 contact hours
Language of tuition	Module is presented in English
Department	Gordon Institute of Business Science
Period of presentation	Semester 1 or Semester 2

Module content

This module aims to guide students to develop their own conceptual models. They need to integrate existing literature with their own critical understanding, and to propose an alternative framework for making sense of a phenomenon they have observed.

Mini-dissertation: Evidence-based management 800 (GMD 800)

Module credits	60.00
NQF Level	09
Prerequisites	No prerequisites.
Language of tuition	Module is presented in English
Department	Gordon Institute of Business Science
Period of presentation	Semester 1 or Semester 2

Module content

This module aims to guide students to analyse a chosen business challenge through the lens of an appropriate theoretical lens, and to explain the chosen evidence base that will provide them enough information to make robust recommendations for practice.

The information published here is subject to change and may be amended after the publication of this information. The [General Regulations \(G Regulations\)](#) apply to all faculties of the University of Pretoria. It is expected of students to familiarise themselves well with these regulations as well as with the information contained in the [General Rules](#) section. Ignorance concerning these regulations and rules will not be accepted as an excuse for any transgression.